

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated May 6, 2005. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-8 and 11-19 are under consideration in this application. Claims 9-10 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 11-12 and 14-17 are being amended, as set forth in the above marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim applicant's invention.

The claims are being amended to correct formal errors and/or to better recite or describe the features of the present invention as claimed. All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8, 13 and 18-19 were allowed, and claims 14-15 would be allowable if written in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As 14-15 are being written in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, these claims are in condition for allowance.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 9-12 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by the applicants; admitted prior art as depicted in Fig. 13.

As claims 9-10 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and their dependant claims are being amended to depend from the allowed claims 14-15, claims 11-12 and 16-17 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicant respectfully contends that the prior art references cannot anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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